GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5893
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2001
PROCESSED FOOD INDUSTRY
PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make the processed food industry more competitive;

(b) if so, the steps taken to identify the languishing units; and

(c) the financial packages introduced for the revival and growth of these languishing food processing units?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH)

(a) to (c): The Government have taken a number of policy initiatives to promote the growth of the processed food sector in the country. Under the Plan Schemes of the Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI), financial assistance is extended to Non-Government Organisations, Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Industries, Human Resource Development and Research & Development Institutions etc. for the development of this sector, including setting up/expansion/modernization of food processing units. However, DFPI does not set up any units on its own. It has been proposed in the Budget 2001 − 2002 to bring down the current Excise Duty of 16% to zero level for processed fruits and vegetables. The proposed National Food Processing Policy envisages creation of enabling environment for developing this sector and infrastructural facilities etc.